

EGREMONT GREEN COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

August 4, 2021 -

The Meeting Opened at 4:06

Members Present: Emily Eyre (Co-Chair), Marj Wexler, Juliette Haas, Sharon Waskow, Pat Konecky (Co-Chair).

Acceptance of July 20, Minutes: Marj moved to accept, Emily seconded, all voted to approve, motion was passed.

Old Business:

• Sustainability Report - Juliette reported

MERF Update - We are now receiving \$20+ a ton for recyclables as the market is still strong. The operator noted that prices could stay in this range for the next year.

-Juliette suggested producing another recycling post card for Egremonters. She will consider design ideas. Recycling dividend monies have been pooled by the town but some might be allocated for an educational card. Total cost would be about \$800.

- Mass DEP is offering air sensors to communities through a competitive grant. Our town will apply for the grant. The sensors, a set of 5, measure particulate matter in real time.

-Juliette mentioned having a set of dishes that Goodwill will no longer accept. Pat suggested holding on to them till the next meeting. In the meantime, Pat will see if anyone would like to lead a mosaic project utilizing ceramic pieces.

• Municipal Vulnerability Plan for Climate Change-Juliette reported

The town did get a grant for \$40,000 to create an Integrated Hazard Mitigation and Climate Action Plan. Work will start up in September. Different town committees are participating in this effort and community input will be part of planning. Emily represents the Green Committee on the Municipal Vulnerability Committee.

• Berkshire Edge

-There was discussion about a potential future Edge article about the cost of plastic, educational and recycling opportunities. Juliette will consider reformatting the new recycling postcard into a possible Edge article in the near future.

-The committee will consider an Edge article on the green aspects of the Devine Pot Shop.

• Apparel Impact Clothing Donation Bin - Marj reported

The Select Board approved going forward with having Apparel Impact provide a bin at the transfer station. The company reports that about 80% of collected material is reusable, while the balance gets shredded and sold. Proceeds go to partner organizations. Apparel Impact is a local veteran group. They will pick up regularly. Clothing will still be able to go into recycle shed for Egremonters. Updated signage will be needed so that people understand the two options for dropping off clothing. Marj will ask the company whether it takes plush toys, stuffed animals and decorative pillows.

• **Plastic Reduction Efforts for Egremont Food Establishments - Sharon** described visiting Egremont food establishments and identifying current practices. She shared a proposal describing how we could approach food establishments with options for improving take out practices. Reporting on this effort could take the form of an article in the Edge or another educational article. We could also provide certification for compliance such as a leaf of approval sticker or sign. Several options, such as allowing customers to bring their own containers, are no cost to the vendor. Other options, such as providing a different type of straw or container would entail costs. This project could include messages to the public with tips for carrying and using reusable. Juliette suggested providing links to green products to vendors. Sharon and Emily will schedule meetings with vendors and initially focus efforts on utensils and straws. Juliette said that a presentation could be made to the Board of Health to ask for funds for educational materials.

• **Update on meeting with Heidi Zorn - Emily reported**

Emily met with Heidi Zorn who described the best green practices used in building out her new shop, Devine. They discussed challenges related to packaging. Heidi noted that they are considering reusable tin containers. Heidi is interested in extending the leaf of approval idea beyond food establishments. Juliette noted that years ago the committee started the Greener Egremont Initiative for rating businesses as green establishments.

Other business:

• Bonnie added scientific data to the anti-idling discussion in the Egremont Post. Emily will ask Mary Brazie whether the town's no idling signs are available for use. She will then approach Norm or Heather to see if the signs can be used at the post office. She will also check about using one at the Egremont General Store. Emily will also ask Leslie Ann about talking with the Library Trustees about relocating the sign at the library.

The meeting adjourned at 5:33.

Next month's meeting is on September 8th 4:00. Pat will request use of the French Park shed.

Minutes submitted by Pat Konecky